

Torrance, California  
November 9, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, November 9, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll; those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag!

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held October 26, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A telegram was read from Mr. Horace H. Edwards, President, National Institute of Municipal Law Officers, urging that one or more Councilmen accompany the City Attorney to their conclave at Chicago, December 1st to 3rd.

Councilman Babcock moved that the telegram be referred to the Council as a whole for consideration. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. H. C. Callihan, Chairman of the Torrance Rodeo Committee, stating that the Rodeo recently held in the Torrance Municipal Park was a big success, and requesting the privilege of staging this show under the name of the Torrance Annual Rodeo in the Torrance Municipal Park next year.

Councilman Babcock stated that in his opinion the Council did not have the authority to grant the use of the Park one year from now, as there may be a change of Councilmen before that time, and suggested that the Rodeo Committee write a letter to the Council after the April elections. Councilman Cucci concurred in this suggestion.

Councilman Babcock thereupon moved that the communication from the Torrance Rodeo Committee be referred to the Council as a whole for future reference.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization thanking the Council for the use of the chairs for their program on October 16th.

A second communication from the WALTERIA Civic Organization was read, requesting that the grounds around the playground building be cleaned up; and also if the locks and plumbing in this building could be repaired.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of the WALTERIA Civic Organization be granted, and the communication turned over to the Street Department for action.

A communication was read from Mr. Donald Findley, addressed to Mr. John E. McCall, City Attorney, in regard to the proposed Agreement between the City and the Perry Mutual Water Company for the sale of the water well in North Torrance. Mr. Findley advised that a meeting of the membership of the Perry Mutual Water Company had been held, and he was informed by Mrs. Gonner, the Secretary, that the members had voted to reject the purchase of the plant.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole, and that the City Clerk be requested to arrange for a meeting with the members of the Perry Mutual Water Company and the City Council, together with the City Engineer and City Attorney; said meeting to be held in the City Hall at the earliest possible date.

A communication was read from Cora B. Bohrer, 2227 Plaza del Amo, requesting the removal of a Pepper tree in front of her property, at said address.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Thrifty Building Service, Inc. requesting permission to get bids and do the necessary street work, as per plans and specifications drawn by the City Engineer, around the property bounded by El Dorado Street on the North, Sonoma Street on the South, Greenwood Avenue on the East and Hickory Avenue on the West; all bids to be approved by the City Engineer and the City Council. They explained, the reason for making this request is that unless the street work is done simultaneously with the sidewalks and curbs, that they are going to install, the coming rainy season will cause seepage under the curbs and deteriorate the work. Also, that it is their intention to pay for the street work and for the City to reimburse them in the amount of the bid agreed upon by the City Engineer.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Boyar, who was present in the Council Chamber, if he would explain just why it was desired to have the street work done in this manner, rather than have the City advertise for bids in the usual manner.

Mr. Boyar explained that it was simply a matter of expediting the work in order that it may be done before the rainy season, and suggested that the City Engineer could probably explain the matter better than he could.

Engineer Jain said that if the City was to go through the usual routine of advertising for bids, etc., it would be impossible to do the work until after the rainy season, as the Engineering Department had several other jobs ahead of it, and to go through the routine of advertising for bids by the City involved considerable preliminary work.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Engineer Jain if he had made any estimate of the cost of doing this work. Mr. Jain replied that he had made an estimate of the cost of materials only, which would be approximately \$3500.00, and he believed the labor would be about \$2000.00 additional.

Councilman Hitchcock said it was his understanding that the Thrifty Building Service would pay for the engineering costs involved; and Engineer Jain added that in fairness to other subdividers who have furnished their own engineers, it was his recommendation that the Thrifty Building Service pay for their share of the engineering costs.

Mr. Boyar, of the Thrifty Building Service replied that they would be willing to stand this cost.

Councilman Hitchcock said it was his understanding that curbs and sidewalks were to be installed only on the side of the streets adjacent to the property to be improved by the Thrifty Building Service.

Mr. Boyar replied that was correct.

Following some further discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to contact the contractor employed by the Thrifty Building Service, Inc., and obtain from them an estimate of the cost of performing the street work to be constructed about the property of the Thrifty Building Service, in Block 12, Tract 4070; and if the prices conform to the prevailing prices within the area for this type of work, to so notify the Council, and to continue with the idea in mind of having the contractor construct this work.

Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Star Department Store, requesting permission to construct a temporary wooden garage building on the rear of a lot on Post Avenue, behind their present store building on Sartori Avenue; being Lot 31 in Block 8, Torrance Tract; said building to be used for the purpose of housing and protecting their trucks which they are now forced to leave standing out in the open.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Engineer for his recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Librarian Dorothy H. Jamieson, advising that due to shortage of help and difficulty of transportation, it will be necessary to curtail the Library hours temporarily, and the Library will be closed from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. each day; the new schedule being: "Open every week day, 12-6: 7-9."

Councilman Cucci moved that the recommendation of Librarian Dorothy H. Jamieson be concurred in, and the communication filed. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board recommending that Mr. Ralph Haerr be permitted to work in lieu of taking a vacation and that he be paid therefore at his regular rate of pay.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board be approved. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, advising that Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Bus Department, had requested permission to take one week of his vacation from November 8th to 14th inclusive; and the second week from December 27th to 31st inclusive; stating that he had been forced to postpone his vacation until this time due to shortage of help; and that Mr. Ward's request had been approved subject to the consent of the Council. Councilman Babcock moved that the recommendation of the Civil Service Board be concurred in and that the request of Mr. Ward be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded this motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board advising that Bus Driver Howard Cruelle had requested permission to take one week of his vacation from November 23rd to 27th inclusive, and another week from December 25th to 30th inclusive, and recommending that this request be granted.

Following a short discussion Councilman Babcock moved that the request of Howard Cruelle be rejected, and the communication from the Civil Service Board be referred back to them. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, addressed to Mr. J. E. McMaster, Chief of the Fire Department, advising that Mr. Parry's request for a three months' leave of absence, due to sickness, had been approved.

On motion of Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the communication was ordered filed for further reference.

A communication was read from the City Engineer, with reference to Resolution No. 1613, passed at the Council meeting held October 26, 1943, authorizing him to make application to the State Director of Finance for War Housing aid.

Engineer Jain advised that he had met with Mr. MacDonnell, Manager of the local War Housing Center, and learned from him that the City would be expected to guarantee certain expenses of the present local War Housing office up to an estimated amount of \$100.00 per month, but that it was not intended to employ any additional paid help.

He said it was recommended by the N.H.A. and the local War Housing office that a War Housing Committee be appointed by the Chairman of the local Civilian Defense Council to actively direct the local participation in War Housing efforts; and that in regard to the matter of requesting State aid, it appears that the City must make a definite budget set-up of a specific amount of money for the year and guarantee the same to the State Director of Finance, who in turn would recommend the matching of a portion or all of the actual cash outlay by the City.

Engineer Jain's report further outlined the procedure to be followed before he would be in a position to make application to the State Director of Finance for assistance.

Following a short discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1615

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING DEED FROM  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COVERING CERTAIN  
TAX DEEDED PROPERTIES IN SAID CITY OF  
TORRANCE AND AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1615 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1616

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY  
OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN TAX  
DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, AND  
INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO LOS  
ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1616 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett inquired of the Councilmen if they were all in agreement regarding the resolution establishing salary ratings for City employees, and if all the Councilmen had seen this resolution. Councilman Cucci replied that he had not seen it.

Councilman Powell moved that Mrs. Melton be appointed as Crossing Guard at Waltheria, to replace Mrs. Ferguson, effective November 8, 1943, at the regular rate of 70¢ per hour. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Kenneth E. Garrison be employed as Patrolman, on a temporary basis, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, the date of employment to be set by the Chief of Police. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that Casper Clemmer and John Fess, emergency engineers in the Fire Department, be given an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective September 19, 1943. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Cucci presented a proposed resolution, which he requested Clerk Bartlett to read, entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM  
FOR (ANNUAL) INVENTORY OF ALL CITY-OWNED  
PROPERTY, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT.

Councilman Cucci asked the City Attorney if the provisions of this resolution could legally be carried out.

Attorney McCall replied that the Council could do anything it liked.

Councilman Hitchcock requested that a little more time be given to consider this matter. Councilman Cucci thereupon withdrew the resolution.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$60.00 be made for the purchase of two tons of barley hay. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the expenditure of not to exceed \$950.00 plus tax, be authorized, for the purchase of a four-wheel Fordson Tractor for use on parkway maintenance equipment. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the expenditure of not to exceed \$300.00, plus tax, be authorized, for the purchase of power mower attachment for Fordson Tractor. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$107.10, plus tax, be made for the purchase of twelve sheets of blue annealed steel (48" x 120" - No. 12 ga.) for repair of Street Department trucks. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of \$54.40 be made for labor in repairing the A.C.K. Tractor by the Shepherd Tractor and Equipment Company. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.



Councilman Hitchcock asked Engineer Jain for a report on progress being made on the proposed improvement of Crenshaw Blvd. and Arlington Avenue.

Engineer Jain replied there was nothing further to report on Crenshaw Blvd.; that the project has been recommended to the War Production Board by the State Highway Department, but no reply has been recieved as yet; and that the Arlington Avenue job is all staked out and ready to go.

Councilman Babcock moved that the expenditure of \$107.11 be authorized for motor exchange for Bus No. 102. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Bus Driver Richard Larry be given an increase in salary from \$170.00 to \$185.00 per month, who has completed six months' service in the Bus Department; said increase to become effective November 14, 1943. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Raymond Taft be employed as Bus Driver, on a temporary basis, effective November 1, 1943, at a salary of \$170.00 per month. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that Kenneth Kail be employed as Bus Driver, on a temporary basis, effective November 3, 1943, at a salary of \$170.00 per month. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that H. C. Callihan, senior bus driver, be appointed to take over the duties of Mr. C. Z. Ward while he is away on vacation, from November 8th to 14th, inclusive. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Engineer be instructed to have four portable booths or shelters constructed for the use of crossing guards during rainy weather. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$4.50 be made to reimburse Mr. Paul Findley for expenses in attending the California Planning and Housing Commission on October 29, 1943. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Bannerman, of California National Builders, stated that they had run into a very difficult situation in regard to acquiring title to the tax-deeded lots they had recently purchased from the City, and that since May 27, 1943, they have only been able to acquire title to six building sites.

Mr. Bannerman said they had acquired eleven other, privately owned lots in Torrance, and had succeeded in having their priorities transferred to these lots. He explained that while they still wanted to use and improve the lots purchased from the City, he requested that the Council permit them to take certain deposits that they had with the City, and which might be tied up for a long time, and utilize these deposits over in Tract No. 9901, which he believed the Council was anxious to have improved, and in that way they would be able to have one deal on which they could actually accomplish something. He said that their option on Tract 9901 was so drawn that it was subject to their acquiring priority and financing, and therefore they would be within their rights if they simply notified the City of Torrance that they wanted to give the property back to the City.

Councilman Cucci inquired if the Assessment Engineers were taking care of these.

Mr. Packard, of Assessment Engineers, who was present, stated that they were still working on them; and that these tax deed properties were sold in two groups - Group No. 1, on which a merchantable title was given; and Group No. 2, which were sold with tax titles only, with no provision for return of the deposits.

Mr. Bannerman said that while the City was within its rights, he believed it would be to its advantage to get housing.

Councilman Powell suggested that Mr. Bannerman put his request in writing in order that the Council would have something definite on which to make its decision.

Mayor McGuire concurred in Councilman Powell's suggestion that California National Builders write a letter to the Council, and he would then call a meeting with Mr. Packard and Mr. Whiteman.

Mayor McGuire stated that the Council had held an informal meeting on November 1, 1943, with representatives of the Torrance Service Men's Foundation, in regard to the reopening of the Civic Auditorium, and the Council had decided that the Auditorium will be open for the use of this Organization on Friday and Saturday nights, in accordance with rules and regulations as set up by that Organization; and with the understanding that it will be under the supervision of at least five members of this Organization; and to be used for the holding of public dances and other entertainment. Mayor McGuire requested Mr. Miller, who was present, to notify the Organization to this effect.

Councilman Babcock moved that the Auditorium be opened for recreational purposes on the balance of the nights--from Monday to Thursday inclusive--from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M., under the direction of Mr. Dale Riley; and that Mr. Dale Riley be notified of this action, and that he be requested to contact the Council as a whole as soon as possible to get their instructions in regard to this matter. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci suggested that the City Clerk notify the Torrance Service Men's Organization of the action taken by the Council.

Mr. Charles Elman, 1215 East First Street, Los Angeles, presented a letter to Clerk Bartlett, which he read, wherein Mr. Elman states that in his opinion the City should have a first class bus system, even if it shows a loss; also that the City is woefully lacking in community interests to appeal to the youth of the City.

Mr. Evans, of the Evans Gift Shop, inquired as to what disposition had been made of the recent request from the Postmaster for the painting of "Loading Zones" in the business district, stating that the drivers of the parcel delivery trucks have received instructions that if they cannot find room to park to bring the merchandise back, which is causing considerable delay in the receipt of goods, and will mean a loss to the merchants, especially during the holiday season.

Councilman Cucci replied that he is redrafting the entire parking ordinance, which is taking considerable time, as he is planning to submit an entirely new ordinance to take care of the parking situation for the future as well as the present.

Mr. Evans requested that the City Painter be instructed to paint a "Loading Zone" on each side of the red zones on Sartori Avenue, which he said would take care of the situation.

After further discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that the City Engineer and the Chief of Police get together and decide where the "Loading Zones" were to be placed, and if necessary to hire a painter to do the work. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Paul Findley advised that the week of December 12th to 18th inclusive, has been designated as "Bill of Rights" week, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights, and there is a National movement to celebrate that event. He suggested that the City participate in this celebration jointly, along with other civic and fraternal organizations, and that speakers be obtained, as well as music, etc.

Mayor McGuire asked Councilman Cucci if he would act as a member of the Council, and work with Mr. Findley, and suggested that he contact Mr. Crail and obtain further information regarding the "Bill of Rights" week.

Councilman Cucci replied that he would get in touch with Mr. Findley regarding this matter.

The Chief of Police stated that he had been asked what action the City was going to take in regard to lifting the Dim-out.

Mayor McGuire inquired if there would be any objection to removing all the shields and paint; to which Chief Stroh replied that Gen. Emmons said the City might be required to dim-out again at any time and suggested that for the present, the cardboard shields be removed in the business district only, but to leave the paint on the top; while in the residential district he believed they should be left as they are, except where they have slipped down, in which case they should be removed.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Council go on record as in favor of removing the cardboard shields in the business district, but that the lights in the residential section be kept as they are except where the paper has slipped down, in which case they shall be removed, and that the City Electrician be instructed to act accordingly. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Police Chief Stroh reported that there was two or three thousand dollars worth of equipment in the Auditorium that belongs to the County Medical Division and O.C.D., and suggested that before the Auditorium is opened to the public that the doors should be fixed so they could be padlocked to keep anyone from going in.

Mayor McGuire advised Chief Stroh that they would have a meeting with him before the Auditorium was opened to the public.

Mr. Miller thanked the Councilmen for the consideration shown them, and inquired if there was anything that could be done to help the Army Officers arriving in the City to find living accommodations. He said that defense workers were given preference over the Army Officers, which he felt was an injustice.

Considerable discussion followed and it was decided that nothing could be done about this situation as it was a ruling from Washington that defense workers should be given the first opportunity to rent any houses that might be available.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.



At 9:45 P.M., on motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance